

Mayor's Report May 2020

We are at present experiencing very challenging and changing times tackling the COVID 19 pandemic and I am hoping that everyone is keeping safe and well. I note that over the last few months 3 members of our community have died as a result of the pandemic, one being a friend of mine. I offer Hayle Town Council's sincere condolences. During these times the Town Council team continue to work, sometimes from home and/or in different ways, but they are still managing to keep the town running efficiently.

Hayle Town Council has 15 either elected or co-opted Councillors and we try to run the Town's facilities with the help of a small team of officer's guiding us over many hurdles. We are responsible for many public facilities and open spaces including the Library, Swimming Pool, Recreation Ground, Public Toilets, Community Centre, Millponds and King George V Memorial Walk. We also try to work with and support the many volunteer organisations which add to our Town, at one point this year I counted over 80 in Hayle. Well done all of you.

Last year Hayle Town Council dealt with 78 Planning Applications, 51 were No Objections, 14 were objections, 7 No Comment, 6 were supported or strongly supported. The planning process is very complicated with many consultees and the final decision taken by Cornwall Council. Four of the major applications that we responded to were the development on North Quay, a large development at Highlanes, a small development at Back Lane Angarrack and a medium-sized development at Foundry. Our Town is changing, some like it, some hate it but once it is approved there is little that can be done. I recommend everyone to try to be aware of Planning applications near you and if you feel it necessary please make representations to Hayle Town Council and Cornwall Council, it is your Town so I encourage you to get involved. We still await the development of Loggans Mill, the formal transfer of the old Hawkins car park and the Hayle Terrace toilets. Please see the attached summary for more information.

Hayle Town Council set its precept, Hayles portion of the Council Tax, in the sum of £600367, this year, an increase of 17.04%. This money is used, with any income from the Community Centre or Swimming pool, for instance, to run the town council and to provide and deliver a number of facilities and services. Last year the total expenditure was £614,664. £24,000 was spent on the Recreation Ground fence, £19,500 on decorative lighting, £4,158 on the Community Centre Car Park and the 4 Public toilets in the town costs £40,966 which includes the cost of repairing vandalism. We also updated the fire alarm at the Library, made improvements at the Swimming Pool and Recreation Ground, updated our office equipment and training, and entered into a Service Level Agreement with Cornwall Council for the provision of a Multi-skilled Enforcement Officer. We make small grants to help local organisations and we also make larger annual grants to organisations such as Hayle Day Care, which is such an asset for our elderly residents. Please see the attached summary for more details of the finances.

The Town Council is able to respond to different emergencies and can diversify; we are now dealing with a Pandemic, before Christmas, we and Cornwall Council dealt with a once in a

lifetime flooding. The work of the council and its relatively small team is evolving to manage and deliver an evergrowing number of services and facilities. We took on the Hayle Library including the management of the building, the library and information service and staff, a brand new challenge. In January of 2020 we also undertook a thorough staff review which demonstrated that there was a need for a few additional hours to assist the administrative team and that one more, full-time employee was required to work with the maintenance team. The team, whist impacted by prolonged staff absences over the last 12 months, has pulled together to embrace the challenges and managed well to overcome any problems.

In my opinion, Hayle Town Council, which is not politically motivated, is excellent in dealing with all matters and its staff, including the library team, are a shining example of professionalism and expertise.

I submit this unusually short Town Report for your information.